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New Era in Intelligence

Spying Became an Electronic Art During Dulles's Career in Field

By WALLACE CARROLL

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—intelligence collection was al-
For more than three thousand ready under way.
years after Joshua sent his spies. In this new era it was pos-
into Jericho, the techniques of possible for an intelligence chief
intelligence gathering remained to call in his scientific advisers
essentially unchanged. Then the and say:

scientific revolution, and par-
ticularly the progress of elec-
tronics, opened revolutionary
new possibilities in the arts of
espionage.

It is one of the
News distinctions of Al-
Analysis len Welsh Dulles
that his career
bridges three two moving on the roads behind the
eras of intelligence activity. Iron Curtain and whether nu-
That is why his impending resig-
nation from the directorship
of the Central Intelligence
Agency, which was announced
today, is something of a land-
mark in the history of Intelli-
gence.

When Joshua's two agents
returned to him from Jericho,
they were able to report that
the morale of the defenders was
shaky, "for even all the in-
habitants of the country do
faint because of us."

This person-to-person, word-
of-mouth intelligence was still
the basic mode of operation
when Mr. Dulles became this
country's chief intelligence
agent in Switzerland in World
War II.

It was to him that German
informants came in 1944 with
word of the plot, by highly
placed anti-Nazis to assassinate
Hitler. And again, the following
year, the German military came
to him with the assurance that
the German Army in Italy was
ready to surrender.

But when Mr. Dulles became
the director of the C. I. A. in
1953, the new scientific era was

"It is imperative that we find
new ways to gather informa-
tion in areas of the world
which our agents and informers
cannot hope to penetrate. I
want you to produce a space
satellite that will send back
pictures and other data which
will tell me whether armor is
outer space or even under
ground."

Occasionally the public gets a
hint of what goes on in this new,
impersonal kind of espionage,
as when the United States Gov-
ernment announces that a nu-
clear device has been exploded
that day in the desolate reaches
of Siberia.

For the last eight years Mr.
Dulles has presided over this
kind of scientific spy work as
well as over the continuing clas-
sical methods of gathering in-
formation that other govern-
ments would prefer to keep
secret.

In his personal style of opera-
tions, he has startled some old
hands in the game by defying
the ancient tradition that the
chief spy, as his agents, should
court anonymity.

Daniel Defoe, who is some-
times called the founder of the
modern British intelligence or-
ganization, operated under the
"cover" of his reputation as a
writer.

This tradition of secrecy was high policy.

War II the chief of British in-
telligence was known only as
"The Brigadier." His real
name, Menzies, was not even
mentioned at Cabinet meetings.

Mr. Dulles decided from the
moment he became director of
the C. I. A. that this kind of
secrecy was not possible in the
United States. Accordingly, he
made public speeches, received
newspapermen in his office and
at his home, and traveled
abroad without concealment.

To the dismay of some of his
associates, he decided that his
Washington staff of many
thousands, which was scattered
in innumerable buildings, should
be housed in one mammoth
headquarters located in plain
view on a four-lane highway.

"Never try to conceal what
cannot or need not be con-
cealed," he told his critics.
"When I was in Switzerland
during the war, nobody knew
who was the British intelligence
agent but every one knew who
was there for the United States.
That was why certain informa-
tion about what was going on
in the enemy countries came to
me."

Keeps Tight Security

But although he has not
shunned personal publicity, Mr.
Dulles has maintained the
tightest kind of security at the
C. I. A.

This has made it impossible
for outsiders to evaluate his
own performance as an intelli-
gence chief and that of his
agency.

Senator Mike Mansfield of
Montana, one of the most influ-
ential Democrats in Congress,
tried repeatedly to have a Con-
gressional committee established
to keep watch over the C. I. A.
Mr. Dulles used all his politi-
cal skill, which it sometimes
reduced only to that of J.
Edgar Hoover, to frustrate the
attempt.

Officially the State Depart-
ment has often said privately
that the C. I. A. under Mr. Dul-
les set up its own diplomatic
service to make for-

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